National insurance scheme for farmer

1513. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of farmers who are covered under National Insurance Scheme in the country till 2008-09;

(b) the figure of claims made by the farmers under this scheme till 2008-09; and

(c) percentage of claims settled by the Insurance Companies under this scheme till 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Since inception of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) in Rabi 1999-2000 to Rabi 2008-09, total number of 13,45,40,946 farmers have been covered.

(b) and (c) As per provisions of the scheme, farmers are not required to file/lodge any claims. The scheme operates on area approach basis. Accordingly, the payment of claims in a notified area becomes payable if there is a short fall in yield against guaranteed yield due to any non-preventable risk in other words, if the current season's yield is less than the threshold yield of the notified unit area for the insured crop, all farmers in the notified area growing insured crop become eligible for compensation.

Indemnity claims under the scheme are calculated and settled by the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) which is the Implementing Agency of the Scheme. AIC have cleared the calims amounting to Rs.12,68,539.88 lakh till Kharif 2008 season. Out of these claims, 94% have already been settled by AIC. The claims of Rabi 2008-09 season are not yet processed by the AIC as the cut off date for receipt of yield data commences from July onwards depending upon the State and Crop notified.

Utilisation of marine resources

1514. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to ensure maximum utilisation of our resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and deep sea areas of our country;

(b) whether Government will give assistance to exploit such marine resources;

(c) the number of deep sea fishing trawlers presently using our waters; and

(d) the targets set for the next three years in deep sea fisheries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy, 2004 has been adopted for sustainable development of fisheries in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Deep sea fishing guidelines are also under operation under which Letter of Permits (LOP) are issued to the Indian Companies/firms to operate resource specific deep-sea fishing vessels to fish in the Indian EEZ beyond territorial waters.

(b) Under a Scheme of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), assistance is provided for conversion of fishing trawlers into tuna long liners. So for, 225 such trawlers have been converted to tuna long liners under the scheme.

(c) There are 74 number of resource specific deep-sea fishing vessels of different categories belonging to'18 Companies/Firms which have been authorized to fish in the EEZ.

(d) Based on a report of a Working Group for revalidating the potential of fishery resources in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the maximum number of permissible vessels that could be allowed under each resource-specific category has been worked out. However, no year-wise targets are fixed for induction of deep-sea fishing vessels. Applications for LOPs are considered on merits.

Revised estimate for Jakhau Fishery Harbour Project

1515. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has accorded approval to Jakhau Fishery Harbour Project as 100 per cent Centrally sponsored scheme;

(b) whether the initial cost of the project has escalated due to delayed environment clearance by GO1 thereby raising the difference of amount to 2341.00 lakhs, which is yet to be paid to Gujarat Government by GOI;

(c) if so, the action taken by GOI so far, for the release of excess expenditure;

(d) whether Government of Gujarat has sent the detailed report regarding revised estimated cost; and

(e) if so, the time by when the revised cost will be released to Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India had in May 1993 accorded approval for development of a fishing harbour at Jakhau in Kutch District of Gujarat at a cost of Rs.1143.60 lakh with 100% Central assistance due to its strategic location. Entire approved cost of Rs. 1143.60 lakh has been released to the State Government in six instalments for completion of the project.

(b) to (e) The Government of Gujarat could not complete the project within the approved cost of Rs. 1143.60 lakh and time period of three years. They submitted a Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) proposal initially with a cost escalation from Rs.1143.60 lakh to Rs.3319.34 lakh in February 2000. The project cost was subsequently again revised on several occasions by the State Government to (i) Rs.2925 lakh in October, 2000, (ii) Rs.2455 lakh in March, 2002, (iii) Rs.5291 lakh in May, 2005, (iv) Rs.3157 lakh in November, 2006 and (v) Rs.3483.90 lakh in March 2007. The Government of Gujarat reported that delay in obtaining environmental clearance is one of the reasons among others for the